



Mammoth Pacific L.P.

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May 21, 2004

Via Email (docket@energy.state.ca.us) and Mail

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office
Attn: Dockets 03-IEP-01
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS 4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re. Docket number 03-IEP-01 / 2004 Transmission Update

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Mammoth Pacific, L.P. (MPLP), I am writing to provide comments on the collaborative state transmission assessment which is currently being conducted by the California Energy Commission.

MPLP's geothermal facilities in Mono County, California currently generate up to 40 megawatts of renewable electricity from geothermal resources produced from federal and private geothermal leases. MPLP also owns and maintains other federal geothermal leases on Inyo National Forest lands to the west of the existing facilities and north of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. These lands are included in the Mono-Long Valley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). Various studies indicate a significant potential for expanded geothermal development. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) studies of the area estimated the Long Valley Caldera could sustain nearly 2100 Mw of electrical (Muffler and Williams, 1976). A more recent study suggests that the Mono-Long Valley may be capable of supporting 150 Mw or more (Suemnicht 1993).

Currently, renewable generation originating from the Mono County area must utilize Path 60 and is limited by two aging and inefficient Southern California Edison 115 kv transmission lines (lines 30 and 31) between Control in Bishop and Inyokern. These parallel #4/0 aluminum conductor steel reinforced (ACSR) lines are limited to 80 Mwe each. This path is the limiting factor for transmission capacity for Path 60. Independent studies of this path limit new generation at Control in Bishop to 122 Mwe. As lines 30 and 31 reach their limits significant generation is consumed by line losses. Additionally, current generation is subject to significant curtailment due to transmission maintenance.

It is clear that transmission constraints along Path 60 are a significant impediment to new renewable generation from the Mono-Long Valley KGRA.

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MPLP encourages the California Energy Commission to recognize Path 60 as a priority corridor for attention in the future and highlight this path in the 2004 Integrated Energy Policy Report.

Geothermal energy is not only clean and sustainable, but it offers reliable, baseload generation, uses little land space and has minimal impacts on wildlife. These are some of the reasons that geothermal energy development should be supported at every opportunity by the California Energy Commission. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RM Sullivan". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "R" and "M" followed by a cursive "Sullivan".

Robert Sullivan
Facility Manager

cc: Dan Schochet, Ormat
Monte Morrison, Constellation Energy
Dave Cogdill, Assemblyman, 25th District